

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14821 211310Z

44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 AGR-20

AID-20 SS-15 EB-11 DODE-00 ABF-01 DRC-01 /134 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6772

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS-CROP SUBSTITUTION

REF: A. GENEVA 4940 B. STATE 18465

1. THE FIGURE OF 65 VILLAGES INCLUDES: THE 30 UN VILLAGES, WHICH AT LEAST PRINCE BHISADEJ CONSIDERS AS BEING UNDER THE KING'S PROJECT, 15 OTHER OPIUM GROWING VILLAGES, AND 20 NON-OPIUM GROWING VILLAGES. A TOTAL FIGURE OF 45 VILLAGES SHOULD THUS BE USED. THE LIMITING FACTOR IN THE AMOUNT OF BEANS TO BE GROWN IS NOT THE NUMBER OF VILLAGES, HOWEVER, BUT THE QUANTITY OF BEAN SEED AVAILABLE FOR PLANTING, E.E. 30 TONS.

2. THE FIGURE OF \$200,000 WAS ARRIVED AT AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE 30 UN VILLAGES WILL PLANT AN ESTIMATED 25 TONS OF BEAN SEED AND THE 15 OTHER OPIUM GROWING VILLAGES WILL PLANT AN ESTIMATED 5 TONS. AT AN ESTIMATED YIELD OF 10 TONS OF BEAN CROP FOR ONE TON OF BEAN SEED, THE 30 TONS OF SEED WILL YIELD 300 TONS OF BEANS. AT 4.5 BAHT PER KILO THE PURCHASE PRICE OF 300 TONS OF

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 14821 211310Z

BEANS WILL BE \$67,500.

B. TRANSPORTATION COSTS ARE ESTIMATED AT \$2,500.

C. OTHER EXPERIMENTAL CROPS WILL BE GROWN, SUCH AS SOY BEANS, SESAME SEEDS, PEANUTS, AND CHILIES. SINCE THESE CROPS ARE NEW, IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE THEIR YIELD, BUT PROJECT LEADER RICHARD MANN ESTIMATES THAT \$10,000 WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PURCHASE WHATEVER CROPS ARE GROWN.

D. THE OTHER \$20,000 WILL BE USED TO COVER SEED BEDS FOR THE NEW EXPERIMENTAL CROPS AND GUARANTEES IN CASE OF TOTAL FAILURE OF THESE HIGH-RISK CROPS. MANN NOW SAYS HE CAN OBTAIN THIS \$20,000 FROM MONEY ALREADY BUDGETED UNDER THE SECTION IN HIS WORK PLAN ENTITLED MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENTS. PARAGRAPH 53 OF THIS WORK PLAN ENTITLED MISCELLANEOUS COMPONENTS. PARAGRAPH 53 OF THIS WORK PLAN ALLOCATES \$20,000 A YEAR FOR LAND IMPROVEMENT, CROP ESTABLISHMENT, VILLAGE HANDICRAFTS, PROVISIONS OF INCENTIVES TO FARMERS IN KEY AND SATELLITE VILLAGES.

3. A TOTAL APPROPRIATION FROM GENEVA OF \$80,000 IS THEREFORE NEEDED FOR THE UNFDAC PROJECT CROP PURCHASING FUND THIS YEAR. SINCE GENEVA HAS ALREADY COMMITTED \$20,000, AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$60,000 IS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE PROGRAM ALIVE THIS YEAR. MISSION ESTIMATES UNFDAC WILL REALIZE A RETURN OF 3 BAHT PER KILO FOR THE BEANS. THEREFORE PART OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR BEANS WILL BE A SUBSIDY AND REMAINDER WILL BE A SHORT-TERM CREDIT UNTIL THE BEANS ARE RESOLD.

4. GIVEN THE FORESTED MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN OF NORTH THAILAND, THERE IS NO WAY THAT PROJECT LEADERS CAN GUARANTEE THAT THE VILLAGES WILL NOT GROW OPIUM IN SOME REMOTE PLOT IN ADDITION TO SUBSTITUTE CROPS ON FORMER OPIUM GROWING LAND. THEY WILL MAKE SPOT CHECKS OF THE 45 VILLAGES, HOWEVER. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT 1000 TO 1500 RAI OF LAND THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE PLANTED WITH OPIUM WILL BE PLANTED WITH BEANS, THEREBY REMOVING THIS LAND AND THE HILLTRIBE LABOR THAT WILL BE CULTIVATING IT FROM THE PRODUCTION OF OPIUM.

5. UNFDAC HAS PROCEEDED IN ITS NORTH THAILAND PROJECT WITHOUT DIRECT DEPENDENCE ON ANY RTG AGENCY. STIMULATING AN RTG REQUEST WILL THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT BUT THE CENTRAL BUREAU OF NARCOTICS (CBN) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 14821 211310Z

HEADED BY FIELD MARSHAL PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHIEF OF THE THAI NATIONAL POLICE, IS ONE POSSIBLE AVENUE. THE THAI PROJECT LEADER OF UNFDAC IN BANGKOK IS ALSO AN ADVISOR TO THE CBN. HE WILL DISCUSS WITH MAJ. GEN. POW SARASIN, SECRETARY OF THE CBN, THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THE RTG TO THE UN IN GENEVA FOR AN ADDITIONAL \$60,000 APPROPRIATION TO THE UNFDAC THAILAND PURCHASE-MARKETING FUND.

6. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE USG GO AHEAD AND PREPARE A REQUEST ON THE BASIS OF REFTELS RECOGNIZING THAT THE RTG REQUEST MAY BE SLOW IN APPEARING, OR NOT FORTHCOMING AT ALL. IF NONE APPEARS BY A CERTAIN DATE, SAY OCTOBER 15, WE SHOULD NOT HOLD UP THE PROJECT FOR THE ARRIVAL OF AN RTG REQUEST.

MASTERS

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